

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 899
By Sands

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Reverend Robert Franklin Smith on his meritorious service to God and humanity.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary people of faith and humanity who work with purpose and conviction to make their respective communities better places to live; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Robert Franklin Smith, Pastor of Columbia First United Methodist Church, is most assuredly one such diligent public servant who is deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, a Savannah, Tennessee native and son of Lawrence Lee and Mamie Young Smith, Reverend Smith earned his Associate of Arts degree from Martin College at Pulaski, his Bachelor of Arts degree from Lambuth College at Jackson, and his Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology of Emory University at Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Smith has served with devotion at St. Joseph-Iron City United Methodist Church; Vinings United Methodist Church; Hillsboro United Methodist Church; Hartsville First United Methodist Church; White House-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church; Waverly First United Methodist Church; Andrew Price United Methodist Church; and Shelbyville First United Methodist Church; and

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WHEREAS, he began his exemplary nine-year tenure at Columbia First United Methodist Church in 1989; and

WHEREAS, during these nine outstanding years, Reverend Smith has served his congregation, his church and all of the Columbia community, with the utmost professionalism, faith, and compassion for his fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Smith has faithfully served his church and God at every pastoral level and on every possible occasion; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Smith is indeed blessed to share love and companionship with his wife, Margaret Ann, and their two fine children, Leslie Ann and Patricia Gall; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Smith has recently announced his intention to retire from a specific charge so that his ministry can take new forms as he continues to listen to and heed God's call; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor, commend, and thank Reverend Robert Franklin Smith upon his nine years of devoted service to the good people of Columbia First United Methodist Church, the town of Columbia, and the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church, and recognize his peerless career as a pastor and civic leader on the occasion of his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we most sincerely thank Reverend Smith for his compassionate service to God and humanity and express our confidence that he will continue to be a faithful servant of his people and Lord, no matter what path his endeavors may take.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Reverend Smith, with this final clause omitted.